

Preface

As the song says, “Nobody can please everybody,” and this naturally also pertains to the present collection, both with regard to the choice of melodies and texts and with respect to the manner in which the music is arranged.

When I dared to accept the commission of the governing authorities, it was with the honest intention of producing a useful and somewhat complete songbook for the lodges of the Sons of Norway, and it is my hope that the present selection, in spite of many defects, will be both useful and enjoyable at meetings and on festive occasions when the old, well known songs are sung together either in unison or in choral form — in my opinion an important aspect of fellowship both in our fraternal circle and in the work of the lodge.

It should be understood that the grander numbers are to be sung in unison with piano accompaniment, while the more sentimental pieces, as a rule set out in four-part arrangements, are for the obvious practical reasons most usually used by mixed choirs.

In addition to the edition with music and texts, a text edition will be available at a reasonable price for those who do not wish to bother with music.

The work exceeded by far my expectations at the outset when it became clear that I myself would have to arrange and edit a considerable portion of the contents in order to adapt it to the needs of the lodge.

Among our Norwegian-American composers, Mr. Rudolph H. Möller has very obligingly put two of his compositions at our disposal. On the other hand, it was a disappointment that Mr. Alfred Paulsen found that he had to deny us use of “Naar fjordene blaaner.”

At the same time, it is a pleasure to take the occasion to thank Mr. Hallward Askeland for friendly oversight and good advice and Mr. Mons Hauge for his demonstrated interest.

Minneapolis
July 1926
Carsten Woll